

*restart*

Sample text:

Maple 17 includes a new package for linguistic analysis and grading of essays. The ability for a computer to successfully grade essays is inherently mathematical. Given a set of essays that have already been graded by hand, the computer looks for patterns in the essays and tries to weight them according to the given scores. Things like key words, sentence structure, length, and variation of words tend to have a significant correlation to good or bad scores. Maple's scoring model can pick from up to 20 algorithms, each measuring dozens of properties to formulate a model that can be used to predict scores for new essays.

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The EssayTools package contains functions for:

Grading essays

Plagiarism detection and similarity comparisons

Analysis of English word forms and sentence reduction

Checking spelling

The grading commands are best used in an advisory capacity. They are great for giving insight into student responses for homework and practice. They are also effective as a double-check in high-stakes testing where many markers are utilized. For example, any essay where the human score disagrees with the computer score by more than one or two points could be flagged and re-graded by an independent human.

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To get good predictions it is best to seed your model with hundreds of scored essays. The more the better. For the purposes of this overview, we will

use examples that have insufficient data in order to illustrate the form of the commands as well as some of the pitfalls and limitations of technology like this.

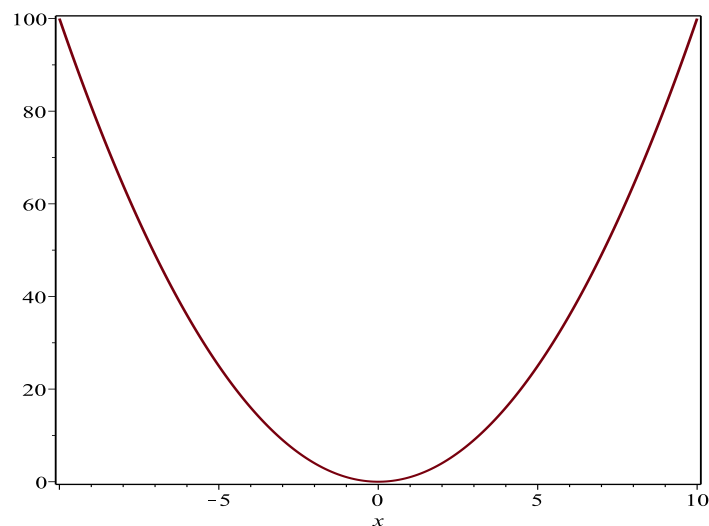
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Consider a wide open short-answer question like "Why is the sky blue?". Gather several responses and put them in an array. Here, we call the array *Answers*. Provide a second array with a grade for each of the answers. In this example, we call the second array

Provide a second array with a grade for each of the answers. In this example, we call the second array *Scores*. In practice, these responses and grades could be read in from a .csv file using one of the ImportVector or ExcelTools:-Import commands.

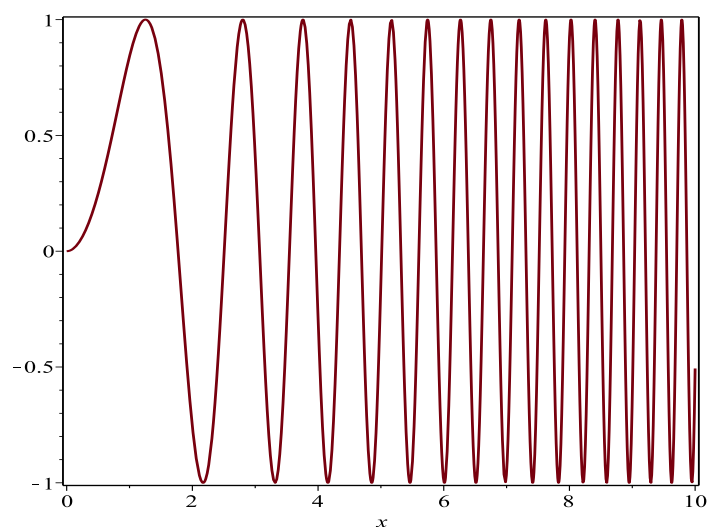
Plot 1:

`plot(f, x = -10...10, axes = boxed)`



Plot 3

`plot(sin(f), x = 0...10, axes = boxed)`



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